Education—1921
Libraries.

General.

LIBRARIES FOR NEGROES

Survey 10/22/21

To the Editor: A Carnegie Library for Negroes appears in the Survey for October 8, page 54. I want to call your attention to a gross mistake in this article, not to belittle Atlanta's work but to give the South Atlantic states proper credit for library work with the Negroes of the South.

On October 8, 1918, the Booker T. Washington library of Birmingham was opened for the use of the Negroes of this city. With over four thousand books on the shelves and with a staff of two Negro librarians and one janitor this branch of the Birmingham Public Library has already entered on the fourth year of its fine work. Today there are four thousand active users of this library and the circulation has steadily increased, from 23,480 the first year to 36,991 the second year, and to 43,999 the past year.

The Washington library is located in the center of the Negro business section of Birmingham within three blocks of the central library. Of our eleven branches the Washington branch is second in budgetary expenses, $4,272.21 being the cost of maintenance for the past year compared to $4,312.56 for our largest white branch and $1,340 for our smallest white branch.

To read your article just after making an address at the third anniversary meeting commemorating the opening of our branch with a record behind us of 104,470 books circulated and 46,315 readers in the library, naturally disturbs me. . . .

The Jacksonville Public Library was opened in 1905 with George B. Utley librarian. Over the door are the words, Open to All. The people of Jacksonville sixteen years ago "furthered a more cordial understanding by the white people of the Negro's needs, possibilities, and ambitions" by establishing in this Carnegie building a department for the Negro with a Negro librarian in charge. Thus library service was given to the black people of Jacksonville at the same time it was given to the white people and not as in Atlanta at a date twenty-three years later. . . .

Lloyd Josselyn.

Birmingham, Ala.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH FEB 17

Education – 1921.

Georgia

Libraries

CORNERSTONE LAID FOR NEGRO BRANCH OF CITY LIBRARY

Constitution – 3/14/21

Nearly 1,000 persons witnessed the laying of the cornerstone Sunday of the Auburn branch of the Carnegie library, at the corner of Auburn avenue and Hilliard street. The ceremony was performed by members of the grand lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Georgia.

W. W. Orr, president of the board of trustees of the Carnegie library, in a short address, reviewed the efforts made to raise the fund of $50,000 for the building. Mayor Key and Dr. Ashby Jones spoke, emphasizing the value of a library to the negroes in this city. Rev. D. H. Stanton delivered the prayers and Rev. R. H. Singleton presided.

The building is partly completed, the walls and entrance having been erected already. The roof and interior finishings remain to be completed before the building can be occupied, and it will probably be midsummer before this work is done.

Georgia's Silver Lining

A New $50,000 Library for Negroes in Atlanta Gives Us a Glimpse of It

N. Y. C. POST
JULY 2, 1921

By Julia Collier Harris

Author of "Life and Letters of Joel Chandler Harris."

IN Atlanta, the city which was for thirty-three years the home of Joel Chandler Harris, there was dedicated a few days ago the handsomest and most complete public library for the negro in the South. The building, a $50,000 structure of Colonial design, in red brick and sandstone, has been erected in the heart of Atlanta's negro district, on Auburn Avenue, almost opposite the large office building which houses a negro bank and the offices of a number of negro doctors, lawyers, and business men. In the immediate vicinity are the homes of a large percentage of Atlanta's colored citizens, together with their churches, their Y. M. C. A., and some of their public schools.

Of the money for this enterprise, the Carnegie foundation furnished $25,000, the city of Atlanta $10,000, Fulton County $10,000, and white citizens of Atlanta $5,000. This last named sum was raised entirely by letter, no public or personal canvas being made, and more than one-half of the amount was obtained in two days' time. The club women of Atlanta gave valuable aid by appearing before the City Council and the County Commissioners to urge their support in the matter, and when it came up for formal discussion these women attended the meeting in large numbers.

The negroes themselves contributed nothing toward the building fund, but they have signified their desire to make a contribution of a certain number of books, and at the laying of the cornerstone last year the negro Masons had charge of the ceremonies, in which they were assisted by the Mayor and Library Board of Atlanta.

Colored People to Control

Though the library will be administered by the Library Board of the Carnegie Library as one of its branches, this body has organized a committee from among the colored people to act in an advisory capacity on all matters relating to the library, the purpose being to give the colored people control in so far as is possible.

The chief librarian of the Carnegie Library of Atlanta, Miss Barker, says of the plans for the negro library:

"We expect to make it a centre for many activities among the colored people. There will be story hours, reading clubs, and debating societies. We will make the building itself a thing of beauty in their community. The yard will be planted with shrubbery and flowers, and we want the whole appearance of the building and its surroundings to set a standard for their homes. Among pictures which have been purchased for the walls of the reading room is one by the negro painter, Henry Ossawa Tanner, and we shall make a special collection of books written by the negro. We consider it valuable to have represented in their library, as far as possible, the attainment of their race in painting, literature, or any of the arts."

The librarian is Alice Cary, one of the best-known and most respected colored women in the South. She has two colored assistants. Some months ago Alice Cary gave up her position as instructor in Morris Brown College, one of the institutions for the higher education of the negro in Atlanta, in order to fit herself to become the head of the library. At that time she was appointed professor emeritus for life of Morris Brown and invited to remain in residence at the college, which she will do.

Alice Cary is a remarkable figure, and it is believed she will do the most useful and important work of her life in her new position. Her history is peculiarly interesting and significant, for in some respects she is unique among educated negroes. Graduated from a white college in Ohio and with none of her forbears in the ranks of slavery, her sole idea has been the service of her race, and she stands for its social elevation through no means whatever except its own betterment, moral and material.

The best white people of Georgia know and trust her. More than twenty-five years ago she sought out the leading clubwomen of Atlanta for help and direction in organizing negro kindergartens. This they gave her, and their coöperation in her efforts has lasted through the years. One of these clubwomen known throughout the South and nationally for her fine work along educational lines, said recently in speaking of Alice Cary:

"She may justly be called the Jane Addams of the colored race. There is the same psychology in a number of ways. Outside her regular routine of teaching she has carried on a round of social service activities which would have filled the average life. And in the midst of her strenuous duties, for a long time, she had the habit of rising at 4 o'clock on certain days to get out her family wash!"

Opposite Aspects of Georgia

During several months just past the entire country has been wrought up, and justly so, over the shameful cases of peonage brought to light in Georgia, and our people have been the target of much criticism, some of it just and some unmerited.

Will our critics find the same interest and significance in events like the one described above? Will they give more than a passing thought to the conditions in Georgia, which make it possible for whites and blacks to join forces amicably and with a Christian spirit in an important educational venture which will touch on the lives of hundreds of negroes in the capital city? Let us hope so, for it is only that variety of advice which is offered in a spirit of sympathy and understanding that is capable of being put to good uses.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

A Carnegie Library for Negroes

The Survey 10/8/1921

ONE of the most recent results of the efforts of the Carnegie Corporation to encourage education through a universal system of public libraries is seen in the opening in Atlanta, Ga., of a library for the exclusive use of the Negro population. This library is situated in the heart of the most populous Negro territory and is a branch of the Carnegie Library of Atlanta. The influence of the Carnegie fund, utilized as in this instance, is far-reaching, for it marks an epoch in the community effort to create an environment for the Negro in the South which is prompted not by utilitarian motive but by ethical impulses. Schools, churches, even parks and playgrounds are provided for the Negroes of the South Atlantic states, but this is the first general library for the exclusive use of the race which has yet been founded south of Louisville, Ky.

The education of the Negro in the South, by the people of the South, means much in the future development of that section of the country. The need for an educational center, such as a library typifies, has for years been recognized by the present librarian of the Atlanta Carnegie Library, Miss T. D. Barker, whose personal and tireless efforts have been largely esponsible for the opening of this so-called "Auburn Branch." Miss Barker says she has always felt a sort of self-reproach when Negro teachers, preachers, or other Negro citizens have appealed to the main Carnegie Library for books of reference. These have never been refused, but southern customs have necessitated the applicant's being asked to sit in some cloak room, store room, or other unfrequented place while using the books. When Miss Barker therefore obtained some years ago the sum of $25,000, donated to the city of Atlanta by the Carnegie Corporation for a Negro library, to be made available on the usual Carnegie Corporation terms (the purchase of a lot and the guarantee of municipal support by the local community) she determined that these terms should be faithfully carried out. The war and the general financial depression formed immense obstacles, the high cost of labor and building material seemed at one time to be unsurmountable barriers, and the time limit set on the acceptance of the gift was September, 1920. If Atlanta had not accepted the donation at that date, by agreeing to meet the terms, the gift would have reverted to the Carnegie Corporation. By the date fixed, however, not only was the gift accepted and the terms complied with, but an additional $25,000 had been secured—$10,000 from the city of Atlanta, a like amount from the county of Fulton, of which Atlanta is the center, and the remaining $5,000 from the public-spirited citizens of Atlanta.

The library itself is an ornament to the neighborhood in which it stands. The building is pure Colonial in architectural design and is fully equipped. Beneath the main library floor, which is divided into sections for reference, circulation, magazine, and children's departments, there is an auditorium with seating capacity for about 150, and accessible both from the street and from the main floor of the library. Thus it may be used for community purposes when the library proper is not open.

Special attention has been given to the selection of children's books. The children were recruited before the public schools closed for the summer, and some five hundred juvenile application cards were issued. The children already give promise of being among the most frequent and enthusiastic users.

The staff consists of a head librarian and two assistants, one a woman and the other a young boy, the two former having had library training. A janitor completes the present personnel. All are Negroes. The librarian has a wide acquaintance among her own people, a fact which may obviate hesitancy in using the library which might otherwise exist.

In her work for the Negro library Miss Barker has made a decided contribution to the improvement of the Negro race. She has furthered a more cordial understanding by the white people of the Negro's needs, possibilities, and ambitions. It is upon such understandings that the future solution of the race problem rests.

SARA D. HALLEY.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH DEC 13

New York

Education—1921.

Libraries

NEW YORK CITY TIMES
APRIL, 17, 1921

LIBRARY AIDS NEGROES.

Particular Attention Given to Children Meets With Eager Response.

The work in connection with the 135th Street Branch Library was one of the special features emphasized by Director E. H. Anderson in his annual report to the President and Trustees of the New York Public Library on April 13.

Situated as it is in the centre of an area practically given over to a negro population of 125,000, a significant development has been the employment of negro assistants in the branch.

"One was appointed who is a graduate of Howard University in Washington, D. C.," said Director Anderson. "Two others are undergoing training. This step has resulted in greatly increased confidence among the readers and has been well received by the whole staff."

The progress in children's work is also considered important. The public school across the street from the library has a negro registration of 2,000 pupils. The circulation of juvenile books has increased 22 per cent. Many new members are registered and there is a highly gratifying increase in the use of the reading room and growth in the reading habit among children. Every phase of the work planned for them, it is said, has met with immediate response. Opening the room during the morning hours to public school classes for a "cultural reading" period resulted practically in the enrollment of the entire classes as readers and members of the library.

Club work among these negro children has not yet been organized, but the children's story hour is in full swing, ranging from the little picture-book children to the older ones who are interested in folk and fairy tales and stories of adventure.

The Branch Library's collection of negro literature has been materially increased, particularly to include books on African history and the story of the race. White men interested in the race are speaking to neighborhood groups on economic and race problems in the weekly library forum. Negro speakers have also addressed these meetings.

The library has arranged with Rodman Wanamaker for the loan of one of his collections of pictures by Tanner, the negro artist. A portrait of Booker T. Washington and a copy of Woolf's painting of the "Fighting Fifteenth," have been presented to the library. Another gift, which is a valuable addition to the musical collection, is a full set of the Negro Spirituals, adapted by Harry Burleigh, the donor.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 13

Education — 1921.

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Oklahoma.

OKLAHOMA CITY OKLA TIMES
APRIL 21. 1921

PATTERSON LAYS PLANS FOR NEGRO LIBRARY IN CITY

None to Be Allowed in Carnegie Library.

The Rev. Simon Fitzpatrick, negro pastor of the Africa Methodist Episcopal church, was allowed to return home Wednesday night by police, pending further investigation as to the legal status of his contention that he, as a negro, is entitled to free use of the Carnegie library at any time he may see fit.

Police headquarters said Thursday that the matter had been taken under advisement and also referred to Joe Patterson, commissioner of public works and under whose department the administration of library matters, is placed. Patterson said Thursday that under no circumstances would negroes be allowed to use the library and that if further violations occurred offenders would be arrested.

"That is the rule," he said, "and one which Mrs. Peacock Wednesday rightfully enforced. However, we expect to provide a library for negroes sometime during the year. Plans have been suggested for one, and it is a good idea. We will give them one of their own."

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Education - 1921.
Libraries

Texas

GREENVILLE TEX. EVE. BANNER
MARCH 1, 1921

BOOKS FOR COLORED LABRARY

To The Banner.

The negro school children of Greenville have received a supply of books that are to go to make up a library for them which was the gift of the Standand Club composed of the white ladies of this city through the helpful aid of Mrs. C. T. Kennedy.

We, both teachers and pupils, wish to thank these ladies for this effort to help us become better citizens, for we know no individual rises above the literature that he reads and among these selections are books that will help us to be such citizens that are best for a community. We heartily thank you and hope that from this beginning that in a few years the Greenville colored citizens will too join the ranks of the other cities who have added this feature to their community life and are able to boast of a public library for its colored citizenship.

Anyone who has any books that they wish to donate to us we will thank for same.

The books will be well cared for at the East Ward Colored school under supervision of one of the teachers.

We hope to have secured for us to be included in our curriculum and that it will be incomplete until Domestic Science and economy has been taught the negro girl of this town under a well trained Domestic Science teacher and under the direct supervision of our most honorable school board in order that it may be a success. We ask you ladies because we feel that you know best the inefficiency of the young negro that you are forced to employ. Such is the case because of lack of training. We also feel that you can best put this before our school board.

Help us in order that no matter what our vocation in life may eventually be "our hands as well as our heads will be trained and we can successfully fill our places to the best interest of all concerned.

(Signed)

A COLORED CITIZEN.

GALVESTON TEXAS NEWS
JUNE 14, 1921

TOTAL LIBRARY REGISTRATION FOR MONTH OF MAY IS 23,437

The total registration for the main branch of Rosenberg Library, during the month of May was 23,437, according to statistics presented by the board of directors at its regular meeting held yesterday morning at the South Texas State Bank. There were ninety-six new borrowers registered during the month.

A total of 3,300 books were loaned for home reading to adults, with 2,537 to children, making a grand total of 5,837 books loaned. The average loaned per day for a period of twenty-five days approximated 234.

In the negro branch of the library there were thirteen new borrowers, with a total registration of 1,716 books. Books loaned for home reading totalled 269.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH DEC 17

Education – 1921.

Virginia

Libraries.

BLYDEN LIBRARY OPENED MONDAY

Journal & Guide 7/23/21

First Library In State of Virginia For Colored. City Manager Ashburner and Other Prominent Citizens Attend Opening.

The Blyden Branch Library, the first Colored Library in the state of Virginia held its opening exercises in the Auditorium of the Booker T. Washington High School, Monday evening, 18th, inst.

The speakers were: City Manager, C. E. Ashburner, Judge Wm. H. Sargent, Miss Mary D. Pretlow, Librarian of the Norfolk Public Library; Mrs. Frank A. Walke, Mr. John B. Jenkens, Prof. D. G. Jacox of Booker Washington High School; Mr. Euric Peters and Mrs. Jesse E. Moone, Librarian.

Secretary C. C. Dogan, President of the Colored Library Commission, was in charge of the exercises.

Invocation was offered by Rev. F. W. Williams of the Queen St. Baptist Church. Rev. C. M. Long made the closing prayer.

One of the most enjoyable features of the occasion was the singing by the Southland Quartet.

The Library will be opened every day between the hours of 2 and 8 o'clock, p.m. All are invited, and urged to come and inspect the books, and make use of the Library.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 17